

Blue Angels Fly High: Marshall's Selfless Act, Rei's Surprise, Nanako's Joy, Little Grey Men, and... Everlasting Love?

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by [lefemmerouge](#)

Summary

Marshall Cuso has escaped jail, thanks to a mycologist named Amelia, giving him the substances he needed to fake his own death. He ends up taking some of the blue angel mushrooms after escaping, which he finds near at his former cabin, and retrieves his tortoise, Socrates. In the process, he is somehow transported through time and space, and finds himself on a railroad overpass in a densely-populated Japanese city, where he watches a very tall 17-year-old Seiran Academy student, with long flowing blonde hair, fall off a bridge, trying to reach for a bouquet of flowers which fell out of her grasp...

Notes

I recently finished watching "Common Side Effects" and it really bothers me that there has only been a few fics about it (they are listed as inspirations for this fic), and I just happened to start that mature conspiracy thriller/dramedy animated series while I was watching "Dear Brother" for the first time. As a warning, this description will give spoilers for Dear Brother, which originally aired on Japanese television from 1991 to 1992. One of the saddest episodes across all anime is the episode "Fly High", especially with how Rei's death was done (in the manga she dies from a drug overdose apparently). I know some people on here have written what-ifs if Rei survived, so I built upon those while putting my own spin on it. Since Rei uses so many painkillers in-canon, it did not seem like much of a stretch that she would take a new medicine... even if given to her by a stranger...

Anyway, you really don't need to know much, if anything, about "Common Side Effects" when reading this (the same arguably goes for "Dear Brother" too, but if you have watched that classic anime, it surely would help). I am presuming, with this fic, that Rei didn't die immediately from the train, but laid there for a bit, still alive, and then died, while on the ground. In the first draft, this fic was over 10,000 words long, so I decided to divide into four chapters, with each chapter covering one day (chapter 1 is set on Friday, chapter 2 is set on Saturday, chapter 3 is set on Sunday, and chapter 4 is set on Monday).

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update: This fic has been cross-posted on [Squidge World](#), [Wattpad](#), [Quotev](#), [Asianfanfics](#) (member access only since I couldn't put on trigger warnings otherwise), [Adult-fanfiction](#), and [Webnovel](#) (it can be read in novel-format there).

See the end of the work for [more notes](#)

- Inspired by [Would you rather?](#) by [XCT](#)
- Inspired by [Doomed Princes' Duet](#) by [raphaelly](#)
- Inspired by [not a day goes by where you don't cross my mind.](#) by [orphan_account](#)
- Inspired by [Who By Her Lady's Command](#) by [eelia_faustus](#)
- Inspired by [Soft Landing](#) by [Monaro](#)
- Inspired by [Those Were The Days](#) by [thedevisrain](#)
- Inspired by [The Glass](#) by [PaperTigerLily](#)
- Inspired by [Hallucinogenic Plants \(New York: Golden Press, 1976\)](#) by Richard Evans Shultes
- Inspired by [A Summer Storm in Spring](#) by [eelia_faustus](#)
- Inspired by [it's not like you \(let's not be us together\)](#) by [cyandential](#)
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- Inspired by [Catharsis](#) by [rusinelore](#)
- Inspired by [A Young Girl's Flame](#) by [MonsterLover02](#)
- Inspired by [i wear a baby blue dress to school](#) by [beverlyhanna](#)

Chapter 1: Ascent, Life, and Love

Marshall had finally done it. He had escaped jail. He was going to get back at his former friend who betrayed him, that *damn* Frances. She only wanted to have the Blue Angel so she could use it to advance in some big pharmaceutical company. He couldn't stand her treachery. That didn't matter right now. He put all that aside.

He picked a few blue angels from the ground. These mushrooms has special healing properties and sent you to another dimension, or something like that. He still didn't understand *exactly* how they worked. Even so, he was much further along than *Frances*. As he swallowed these natural drugs, something happened. He felt different.

Before he knew it, he found himself on a bridge in some Japanese city. In front of his very eyes, he saw a man, no... a *woman*, right? She was standing on an overpass, as trains were whizzing by underneath. Suddenly, a bouquet of flowers fall out of her hand. She reached out and leaped over the railing. He saw her blue eyes, pale skin, and long blonde hair shining in the light, while one of her long limbs attempted to grab the flowers. He was too far away to stop her.

She fell toward an incoming train, bounced off it, flew up into the air, then plummeted to the ground. He was horrified. Somehow, he still had his box of Blue Angels with him. He couldn't let this go on... he *had* to save her. After all, these mushrooms could do wonders, *right*? He stuffed one into her mouth. "Miss...please swallow this...it will help you...*get better*." Rei didn't understand what the man was saying to her, since she didn't know much English, but she somehow had enough strength to swallow this strange substance. It tasted like a mushroom she'd eaten in some [kinoko gohan](#) that Nanako had served her when she'd been sick. Whatever this was, it sent her some place. She found some weird grey creatures crawling all over her and she appeared to collapse into nothing. She was falling apart like a window being smashed, or wooden building blocks tumbling down. It was a very moving experience.

She suddenly opened her eyes, like she had been in a bad dream. She saw the man who had *saved her life*. He had on a fitting white cotton hat, and waved, as he seemed to fade away. What she didn't realize was that he had stuffed a few mushrooms in her pocket. She wouldn't know until later. This whole miracle shook her. She had to make the most of her life. She couldn't take any more of these painkillers again... she couldn't let herself go out this way... after all, she had a *cute* girl who loved her. "Oh, my sweet Nanako-chan...I'm coming!" she exclaimed, as she somehow dodged the trains, made her way onto the platform, and prepared to take the *right* train. She wouldn't let Nanako wait. Perhaps she was more than "Ma chérie la Poupée," her darling doll, or "Poupée-chan" as she once called her. Even so, she still thought about that comparison *every time* she saw her, even now. She had to fulfill her promise. Maybe giving this mysterious drug to Kaoru would heal her heart and end her disease... Perhaps she would offer it to her... *in secret*.

Nanako was getting nervous and continued pacing across the train station platform. *Why* was Rei late? Did *something* happen to her? She was almost about to run to a nearby telephone

booth and call her apartment, hoping she'd answer. Just then, Rei walked toward her. She cried tears of joy. Everything was okay. Well that was until she looked closer. There was dirt on her finely pressed clothing. What...was going on? Rei came running toward her and hugged her, catching her off guard. She could have told her that she fell off a bridge, and miraculously survived after almost dying. She decided to not mention that. Instead, she tried to be upbeat.

"I'm sorry that I'm late...I'm grateful to be with you...right here and now."

Nanako suspected something was up, but did not want to pry. Had something *horrible* happened to her beloved Rei? Or was she just overthinking it? She grimaced at the thought of Rei dying and remembered back to when Rei had talked about death. At the time, she was terrified. Perhaps that's why people at Seiran called her "Saint-Just." Rather than visibly shaking, she smiled. She was overjoyed to see the woman she loved standing right there with *her*.

"Saint Juste-sama, I was so nervous...I thought...I don't know...so many things swirled in my head...When you arrived the weight off my heart was been lifted...I feel so much lighter."

Rei heard this and continued to hug Nanako. She held her tightly. She didn't want to let her go. Nanako, of course, continued to reciprocate. They held one another close until the train came, taking them to the place Rei had mentioned, a place with a beautiful sunset. It was where Rei's birth mother ended her own life by walking into the ocean, the waves crashing around her. As they chattered on the train, Rei wasn't sure *how* she could tell Nanako about a special drug some mysterious guy gave her. What even was that glowing blue mushroom? She felt it had given her another lease on life. Now she could make sure that her life was worth something more. She refused to leave anyone behind.

Nanako was satisfied. She firmly held Rei's hand, overjoyed that Rei was there. She wanted to talk with her about *why* she was late and *why* she had dirt on her clothing. However, she decided that she would raise that issue some other time. What mattered now was that they were together. She was especially grateful when Rei handed her the exotic yellow flowers she had specifically picked out for her.

With all the stress she was under, it was no shock that Rei had been popping pills, specifically painkillers, for years. Being around "Miya-sama," her sister-by-blood (also known as Fukiko), and the emotional manipulation Fukiko directed toward her, engendered that response. She didn't inhale vapors from bags or buy hypnotics from a store. If she had, she could have entered a state of intoxication or dreams. Nor had she used cannabis or other stimulants (like amphetamines). More and more ordinary people were being arrested for using those drugs every year, as Japan continued cracking down on their use. Rei hadn't used meth, which was also growing in popularity. It would, in later years, cause waves of addiction among the population while the economy went into a downward spiral, even leading to specialized police officers enforcing strict laws against the drug's use.

Using drugs was seen as a "moral failing," even when it came to cannabis. It was claimed to be part of counterculture which had "corrupted" minds of Japanese people. At least that's what *the authorities* and their sycophants said. Rei didn't care about any of that. Although there were strict drug laws, people continued to take stimulants as Japan's economy rapidly

grew in the years after the second world war. At the same time, it took time for the country's pharmaceutical industry to independently develop its own products, even as pills and other drugs were still sold. They were, more likely than not, imported from other countries.

Soon enough, Rei and Nanako exited the train, holding each other's hands, and began walking toward the beach. She saw Rei smile. She looked happy. In the past, she'd seen visions of Rei in her mind, with her blonde hair draped upon a white suit, and leaning against a grand piano. Her gaze looked aimless and lost, but the music she played was beautiful. This time was different. When Rei turned around, she looked more determined than anyone else. As they approached the soft sand, Rei impulsively pulled Nanako closer and ran quickly, as she continued to hold Nanako's hand. Nanako urged her to slow down.

The waves hit the beach, calmly and methodically. They both sat on the beach together. Rei was no longer lonely, as she had felt in her apartment, which was filled with mirrors. Nanako had always felt that it was a depressing place for Rei to be, with all the mirrors almost staring at her every night, making it hard for her to sleep. She surely couldn't live that way, Nanako reasoned. She wasn't sure how Rei could stand it. Perhaps all the painkillers she took helped or maybe she had come up with her own coping mechanisms. Being saved from the clutch of death, somehow, made Rei realize she needed to rethink her life and be *more* grateful to everything Nanako had done for her.

No longer did she want to be hesitant, or reluctant, to touch Nanako, nor did she ever want to hurt her, even though she had a lot to go through herself. "Saint Juste-sama, thank you for bringing me here...it's such a beautiful place. Thanks for sharing it with me," Nanako said, as she leaned her head on Rei's shoulder. Although it was risky, she decided to reveal why this place was so important to her. Nanako was sweet, innocent, and honest. Even so, she didn't want to hide anything from her, especially not something like this. She wanted, no she *needed* to tell her, especially in such a picturesque place like this, a place which had been imprinted in her memory.

"This beach is where my mother took her own life...I watched her walk into the waves and disappear...it was such a *noble thing* to do," she said. She then quickly added, before Nanako had a chance to add something, "I wanted this place to have a happy memory." Nanako was a bit horrified. Did Rei want to do something to herself here? Did she want to hurt herself? She was *getting worried*.

"Saint Juste-sama, no *Rei-sama*...are you okay?...is everything okay?...I don't want see you to hurt yourself." She started to cry. Rei had guessed something like this might happen. As the sunset started to lower to the horizon, the orange light from the sun came across the water. It began to illuminate both of their faces. She whispered to Nanako, tried to reassure her, and wiped her tears.

"I'm okay. Something *big* happened today. Perhaps it changed my whole life...can I tell you about it back at my apartment?" Although Nanako wanted to press Rei to answer her questions, her response led her to relent. She hugged Rei and both sat together, watching the sunset, and remained in a close embrace. While she could have lost her life that day, caught up by a warm wind, and maimed by a train, in an attempt to catch a flower bouquet she had bought for Nanako, that wasn't what fate had in store for her, apparently. Nor had the police

taken her away, thinking she had ended her own life *on purpose*, or whisked her away to a hospital. Either timeline divergence could have happened if something had gone differently. In this world, she walked away on her own, making her way to safety, and no one was the wiser. Not even the train conductor realized he had hit someone.

Thanks to all of this, Fukiko received the red roses Rei sent her, complete with a message written in her spidery and long cursive, and hadn't expected to get a gift from her dear sister. Kaoru did well in her layup drills for basketball. Takashi was changing spark plugs. Tomoko rode her bike around the city. She had survived and no one, except her, and the mysterious man, who had given her the substance, knew the exact circumstances.

As the evening soon became night, they walked together back to the train station. The electric lights began to illuminate, lighting their way. They traveled on the train together, not saying much to each other, and holding one another's hands. Soon thereafter, Rei reached her apartment, which was dark and filled with mirrors. She opened the door and saw that no one was inside. She flicked on a switch and the electric light filled the room. She surprised Nanako when she opened up the curtains, letting the bright night lights of the city flood in. *Dear Brother, Sainte-Just, I mean Rei, is acting a bit weird. I'm glad I got to spend time with her. Something seems to be bothering her,* she thought to herself.

Nanako offered to prepare tea. Rei sat down on one of the couches in her apartment's living room. It wasn't a big place, but enough space for her. When she thought about it, she was beholden to Fukiko for having this very apartment, with its ghastly decor. She wouldn't have it otherwise. It was yet another thing she could hold over her. She prepared herself to say something that would catch Nanako off guard. She had to come clean about it.

As the tea started to steep, Nanako made her way over the couch, curious to hear what Rei wanted to tell her. She hoped it wasn't anything too horrible. All she wanted was for Rei to be okay. She hadn't been fazed when Fukiko had, time after time, told her to stay away from Rei. If no one else was going to help Rei, why couldn't *she* lend a hand?

"I almost *died* today, Poupée...Nanako-chan...I was saved by some person with some glowing blue mushroom...if he hadn't been there..."

Nanako was getting nervous. She started tugging at her skirt. She was anxious and uneasy. What had happened? She started to feel a sinking sensation in her stomach. She was almost afraid to ask about the specifics. She pushed herself to do so. She *cared* about Rei, just as much as Prince Kaoru did. She had to know.

"Rei-sama...what do you mean?...a mushroom?...aren't those things...*illegal*?"

It was hard to explain it. How *could* she explain it? One second it felt like everything was about to go to black and another she was up and well. It was almost impossible to comprehend.

"I was reaching for the flowers I gave you... and I fell off the railroad bridge...a train hit me...I flew into the air...I thought that was it for me...then this mysterious man with white cotton hat appeared out of *nowhere* and told me to have this glowing thing so I would get 'better'...and I did...and it brought *me back*."

Reaching into her pocket, for a lighter, she happened to put hand upon something. She reached in and found something peculiar: a few glowing mushrooms which were wrapped in a napkin. She wasn't sure how they got there, but the strange man must have put them there. Nanako was amazed. At the same time, she couldn't help but be worried. What if there were some *unforeseen* side effects?

"Are you sure about this, Rei-sama?...it might hurt you...physically...I don't want something bad to happen to you."

Rei tried to tell her that she would be okay. She had expected that Nanako would be concerned. While she didn't want to admit it, she had similar thoughts. Sure, she took painkillers, pills, and smoked. Before being saved by this weird mushroom, she'd never thought about the affects on her body. She only took those pills and smoked because they made her feel better. Others in Japan, and elsewhere across the world, felt the same. She wasn't alone in that.

"Nanako-chan...it's okay...nothing bad has happened...if it makes you feel better, you can call me *every night* and come to check up on me."

She hadn't expected that Rei would say this. Her long fingers tapped on the couch, ever so delicately, as her chest rose and fell with every breath. Nanako couldn't help but be drawn to it. The unique look of Rei wasn't the only thing that attracted her. Rather it was how much of a *bad girl* she was. She had even tried to smoke. As Rei had said once, it didn't suit her. She was more proper than any of that, you could say, even though smoking was very common back then. There were no anti-smoking laws nor were there any health warnings about smoking. No one, at least generally, seemed to care about secondhand smoke, despite its negative health effects.

Rei took a deep breath. What she was about to say next would be tough. She had to do it. She had to get rid of *them*, to rid herself of them. It was one way to regain her sanity, a way to reclaim the space as her own.

"I want to take down the mirrors in this apartment...*all* of them...I can't live like this anymore...I can't live with their eyes looking at me!" she said, almost yelling.

Nanako started to think Rei might be having hallucinations from the mushroom. She had read recent, and sensational, news reporting about narcotics, which highlighted the negative effects of these drugs. Surely that influenced some popular perceptions of these drugs. In contrast, young people, like her, tended to approach see differently. They wanted to experiment, even if it caused fissures with their parents. Nanako looked around and her eyes came back to Rei. She wasn't imagining things. The mirrors *were* penning her in. She put aside the idea that the mushroom was having side effects like that, at least for now.

"Okay, I'll help you, Rei-sama...let me get some bags." Although it would be years before the first plastic bag, with drawstrings, would come about, there were [lightweight plastic carrier bags](#) produced by a Swedish company named Celloplast. Rei had some around. She grabbed some from the kitchen, while Rei started to taking down the mirrors. She was willing to leave *one* in the bathroom, but the others had to go.

Nanako came back with the bags. She delicately picked up each mirror. Each one was placed in its own bag. Somehow, she was able to do this without getting cut. As the minutes went by, they were able to take down all the mirrors, which numbered over forty. Rei had personally put up each one, over the years. Fukiko had purchased them *for her*, with her money. It was yet another way she maintained dominance. Tired from all the work, Rei laid down on her bed, and Nanako joined her. She caressed the cheek of her lover, who leaned onto her hand. They were lucky that Fukiko wasn't there. She would confront her *another day* and declare her independence from her once and for all.

As they laid there, together, Nanako put her hands over Rei's chest, and began gently hugging her. Rei leaned toward Nanako and started to kiss her, with their lips moving softly and sweetly. Nanako and Rei both took off their jackets, with their kissing becoming more and more passionate. Soon thereafter, Rei kissed Nanako's neck, causing Nanako to moan happily. They were clearly deeply in love with one another. Nothing would change that.

They slept there that night and no one called to check up on them. The day before, Nanako had told Tomoko to cover for her and contact her parents, telling them that she was staying at a friend's house. That was *partially* true. However, Rei was, in actuality, her *girlfriend*, not an ordinary female friend like Mariko or Tomoko. Under no circumstances would Nanako *ever* want to abandon Rei. It would be like she was losing a part of herself. Nor would she be pushed into a marriage with a man she didn't know, by her parents. She had heard of that happening to some other women. She refused to let that happen to her. It *would* not happen. She would not let herself get caught in such a scheme, even if she had to run away from her mom and dad. She saw them as responsible people, so she hoped that would never happen and that they would respect her independence as a young woman instead.

Chapter 2: Fukiko and the Mushroom

Chapter Summary

Nanako wakes up in Rei's apartment and Rei tells her that she will talk to Fukiko. While Nanako is worried, Rei is confident. What she says shocks Fukiko to her core. The response of Rei's body makes Fukiko worried about what will happen to her beloved sister. She remains concerned about her behavior and falsely blames Nanako for everything that's going on with Rei, instead of taking responsibility for the years of pain she caused Rei...

Nanako yawned as the morning sun came across her face. The apartment's window shade had been left open, letting in the light, and allowing people see inside. She had been so entranced with Rei that she had forgotten to close it. She decided to open the window, with the smell of the ashtrays and cigarette, which filled the apartment, whisked away by the warm morning breeze. As she got up, she walked to the fridge. Inside was some food she had brought there the last time she'd visited. Nothing new had been added, making her a bit worried. There were, luckily, some pans for cooking available, so she easily she prepared something to eat.

Rei opened her eyes. Nanako wasn't there. She suddenly saw a little grey creature looking at her from the other side of the bed. She waved back at him. It was bizarre. She rubbed her eyes and when she opened them again, the little person had disappeared. She wasn't sure what *that* was all about. What Marshall had not told her was that the side effects of the mushroom were still unknown. Whether they consumed your life force or not, how the mushroom affected you hadn't been fully tested. It depended on your mental health, genetics, or other factors, with the weird little creatures beginning as hallucinations. She put all that aside as she smelled food from the kitchen.

She got out of bed. Walking into the kitchen, she found two plates on the table. It had been cleared of everything that had been on it and looked cleaner than she would ever made it. Both plates had a yellow and fluffy substance on them. Before she could guess what it was, Nanako proudly announced it. "I made us some scrambled eggs...and did some cleaning...I hope that's okay." Rei nodded. She was fine with that. Eating a meal with a woman she loved was something she enjoyed, especially with everything that happened the previous day.

As they ate their food together, Rei thought about a lot of things in her life. Should she go cold turkey and stop her smoking, and use of painkillers, just like that? Surely that would make Nanako happy. But, was she *ready* for that? Perhaps if Nanako helped it, it could work? She hoped it would. She had to reconsider her relationship with Fukiko. Almost dying made her rethink it all. Was it really right for her sister to treat her that way? She had seen Fukiko as pure, refined, and almost noble person. She had been drawn to all of that, romantically and physically. At the same time, she had been terrified of her.

"I'm going to talk to Fukiko today," Rei began. Nanako did not know what to think. She had seen Rei as someone easily manipulated by Fukiko. However, she had also seen Rei stand up to Fukiko, at times, even going against her when it came to the sorority's abolition, which she had not expected. What she didn't know was that Rei had sent roses, with an attached message, to Fukiko the day before.

"I want to support you, Rei-sama. You can't go alone...you know how Fukiko-sama can be," Nanako began. Rei smiled. She knew she had to change. She had to be better. She could promise Nanako that, at least.

"I don't want to be a bad lover for you...I want to be someone you can rely on." This made Nanako glad, even as she was still grimaced at how much power Fukiko had over her. She came closer and smelled her skin. It still had an aroma of cleanliness, perhaps from the soap she used, even though it did not have the cologne she was used to. This was no surprise. They had slept together, although they didn't go any further than intensely kissing one another. They weren't at the stage, yet, to take the next step. However, she knew that was coming. She wanted them to go one step at a time and not move too fast. Even so, she would be there for Rei, *no matter what*.

Putting her plate in the sink, Rei happily went to the bathroom, and sprayed cologne, which men would use, across her body. She wanted to have an overpowering and musky smell. She continued to get ready, finding her best outfit to wear, something what would make her stand out the most. Nanako watched all of this, from the bathroom door, in utter bliss. She was glad that Rei had enjoyed the food she had made. She felt the same way when she made chicken soup for her. In what seemed like no time at all, Rei was ready. She was starting to realize that ending one's life wasn't the purest form of love, as she thought her mother had shown her. Perhaps Nanako had begun to rub off on her.

Nanako would be emotionally devastated if Rei died. She found such a prospect frightening and disturbing. She couldn't even think about it. She never thought that she was a burden to Rei. Their connection was more than just some sweet illusion. It was something *real*. Rei was slowly coming to the realization that she shouldn't treat her life so carelessly. Nanako surely didn't. Neither of them would ever make each other miserable.

As luck would have it, Fukiko was out on a stroll, after leaving her family manor. She was not in her house. She wanted to take a breather as she thought about the note Rei had sent her. Just then, she looked up. Rei was standing in front of her, along with *that girl* Nanako. She had tried everything to get Nanako away from *her* precious Rei. She wouldn't let anyone else have her.

"We need to talk." Her forthrightness caught Fukiko off guard. She hadn't been expecting that. What was Rei up to? What was she planning? She had to retake control, she had to...

At that very moment, Rei rolled up her sleeve and took off the golden bracelet. She dramatically threw it onto the ground. Fukiko was flabbergasted. Wasn't that something she gave her to cover up her scar? To show their connection to her? Rei came closer to Fukiko, who was becoming even more disconcerted by how Rei was acting. Why was she being like this?

"Rei, you mean everything to me and you must love me only...forget that other girl...*leave her behind*," she began. Rei shook her head. She couldn't let this pass. She had enough of the manipulation. She tried to remain strong.

"I won't let you push me around anymore, Fukiko!" she yelled, with her voice so loud that anyone else nearby could hear her. Even Nanako, who had stepped away, could hear every word. She hoped their conversation was going well. Fukiko tried to maintain her composure. Rei continued, adding a line that shook Fukiko to her core.

"Sister, what had *wasn't healthy*. I care deeply about you. I can't have you telling me what to think...you are my flesh and blood, and you are mine...we are connected by blood...we must..."

She began to trail off. Suddenly she fell to the ground and looked up in a daze. Fukiko, at first, thought this was just part of her act. She quickly realized something was seriously wrong. *What was happening* to her beloved sister?

Rei looked around and saw the little grey creatures everywhere around her. She began trembling, twitching, and having slight convulsions. The green grass touched her clothing, her hands, her neck, her arms, her hair, and her legs. Her limbs became numb while a huge grin went across on her face. She began hearing voices, even those of her late mother. She began to call out. It all seemed so real. She was all by herself, in her own world, and no one else was there.

Fukiko did not know what to make of this. She called out to Nanako. "Misoono-chan...come quick...something's going on with Rei!" She came running over and saw the spectacle. She was horrified. They both worked together to carry Rei back to where Fukiko lived with her brother Takashi. Luckily for them, he wasn't there, so there was less commotion, allowing them to place Rei on a bed in one of the house's spare rooms. Through it all, Rei's pupils were enlarged and her arms remained limp. She could care less about what was happening around her. Some people would call these hallucinations a mystic or religious experience. Rei wasn't that religious, so she didn't see it the same way. In any case, her body's central nervous system was affected by what she had ingested.

As Fukiko ran off to get help, Nanako reached into Rei's pocket. She grabbed the napkin with the mushrooms. She knew that if Fukiko found them, they would *be destroyed*. She feared that possibility. This substance, whatever it was, had brought her beloved Rei back to life, from the brink of death. She couldn't let that be taken away. As for Rei, she began swaying from side to side, laughing at inopportune times, and weirdly felt at ease. She caressed Nanako's cheek. "I'm so happy to be with you," she said, before drifting into a deep sleep.

Some time later, Fukiko came back with a doctor. Nanako told her that Rei had just started sleeping. The doctor began examining Rei right away, feeling her pulse and vital signs. "Everything is normal, ma'am," he said, and added, "just watch her and tell me if anything changes." Nanako and Fukiko agreed to keep him informed. Fukiko was inconsolable. First Rei took off *the bracelet* and then this. Were they connected?

Nanako decided to reveal some key information. "Fukiko-sama, Rei almost *died* yesterday...and *we* went on a date together...to a place with the most beautiful

sunrise...we took down all the mirrors in her apartment...and..."

Fukiko cut her off. She didn't know what had brought all this on. Why was Rei doing all this? And why was she with Nanako of all people? Hadn't she warned her to not be with her? She started to get enraged.

"It's all your fault, Misoono-chan...*you* brought this on, you *vixen*...you are the one who..."

Nanako had to stop her from saying awful things like this. She couldn't let her keep spinning these lies. She had to tell her the truth. She wanted Fukiko to know how much Rei had been through.

She held out her hand. The blue angel mushrooms glowed under the light. "Rei-sama took *one of these* yesterday. She fell off a railroad bridge...and this man gave them to her...it brought her back *from death*." She sighed. She knew this was a lot for her to take in. Even so, Rei was her sister. She had to know.

Seeing the mushrooms there, Fukiko tried to grab them. Nanako snatched them back. She grimaced. She wouldn't be giving them over. "*You* aren't getting these...they *saved* Rei. I won't let *you* have them."

Fukiko, taken aback by the defiance, attempted to reassert her authority. She seen Rei as nothing more than a cocoon that had been split apart, abandoned, and filled with sorrow. She wanted Rei to feel emotions for her again, whether positive or negative. She wanted their deep connection again, to be intoxicated with her, to show off her body to her, to continue her endearing gaze. Her flowery skirt swayed from side to side, as her flowing gold hair draped on her shoulders. She would have her way, no matter what. Nanako wouldn't let that happen. It was Rei who broke the tension, muttering, in her sleep, "Fukiko, you are a *bad sister*. I don't like you anymore. You are *mean*."

This caused Fukiko to fall to the floor. She knew that Rei was only sleep-talking, but what she said cut deep, despite how simple it seemed. *How* could she go back to the way things were? *How* could they even move forward? She wasn't sure. She knew that Rei was right. She *had* been mean. She *had* been a bad sister. She *had* manipulated her, for her own ends, for her own selfish desires. As she sat on the floor, she began to cry, all her emotions coming out through tears streaming down her face. She stayed there for a few minutes while Nanako stood nearby. She knew how vindictive Fukiko could be, so she didn't want to lend a helping hand. Sure enough, after a few minutes, Fukiko got up, and filed out of the room. She couldn't let anyone else see her weakness. It was already bad enough that Nanako had saw her. If anyone else did...

Through it all, Nanako stayed by the bed, and put her ear against Rei's chest. She could hear Rei breathing. Sure, she had drifted to a deep sleep. Despite that, she was still in the land of the living. The weekend had begun. Rei slept through the day. Fukiko never came back into the room. She let Rei stay there, and even Nanako, despite her reservations. She knew full well that Nanako cared for her sister. However, she didn't like admitting it.

Chapter 3: Tomoko, Food, and Hallucinogenic Majesty

Chapter Summary

Nanako awakes in Fukiko's house and thinks that Rei might sleep through part of the day, as she had done on the day before. Instead, Rei is full of energy and somehow brings Nanako back to her own house. She is nervous about introducing Rei to her parents, who are as worried as her friend Tomoko, who have not heard from her, not liking the lack of communication. Later on, Tomoko walks to a nearby park with Nanako and Rei, trying to determine whether they are really dating (as she suspects), and they travel to a nearby restaurant where they see Lady Vampanella and Takashi smoking near one another. Rei even teases the former about not having a girlfriend, invoking her ire, and all of them, once inside, are surprised to learn that Lady Vampanella smokes. Their day goes on from here, even talking about recent films they've seen, with the mushroom mentioned to Tomoko, who remains inquisitive...

Like the previous day, Nanako was awoken by the sunlight pouring through the windows. She thought that Rei might sleep through part of another day, like she had on Saturday. That was not to be. She wanted to get up and enjoy everything. She felt a new lease on life. It was a beautiful, majestic Sunday, in her book. She firmly grabbed Nanako's hand and ran out of the house. She moved so quickly that Nanako barely had any time to compose herself. Before they knew it, they had run up the block. They happened to be on the same street as her house. Could she really bring over Rei to... meet her parents? She wasn't sure, but it was *worth a try*.

As she used her key to open the door of where she lived, she didn't think anyone else was there. That is until she and Rei walked into the living room, after taking their shoes off. Tomoko was there, talking to Nanako's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Misonoo. One was a university professor and the other had once worked as a waitress at a pub, where they both met. Currently, she was just a housewife, like many Japanese women in this era.

"Nanako, we were so worried," her mother began. Her father chimed in as well. He had been equally concerned. "We just wondered where you were. Arikura-san told us..." It was then that Tomoko jumped in. She hadn't heard anything in a day or so, and was getting antsy as well. She didn't like this lack of communication.

Nanako tried to assuage their concerns. "It's okay. I was just staying with Rei-sama...she's been going through *a lot*, recently...so I was helping her." If Nanako hadn't used the pronouns she and her, her parents would have thought that Rei was *a man*. She sometimes gave off that aura about her. So, it wasn't a mistake, but it did show that their perceptions of men and women were a bit traditionalist, to say the least, even though they were a mixed family.

Tomoko hugged Nanako. She thought something bad had happened to her. In some ways, she wasn't wrong. The thought that Nanako had been physically injured was incorrect. Even so,

there was a tremendous amount of mental strain that Nanako was under, with everything she had experienced, especially after hearing about the magic mushrooms, if they could be called that.

They continued to chat through the morning, although Rei never mentioned about the blue angels, nor did Nanako. It would be their secret. For Nanako, she didn't want to mention it front of her parents. From what she knew, they were pretty traditionalist. Sure, smoking was socially acceptable, but taking some weird drugs or pills... no it wasn't. They were seen as the *bad* drugs. Smoking was "good" and meant to make you feel better. What this meant was that people could get drunk out of their minds and crash their cars, but smoking a little ganja would get you thrown inside the slammer for a *long* time. Was this really a just way to run a society?

As the day wore on, Tomoko decided to walk to the nearby park with Nanako. Rei joined them. When Tomoko wasn't looking, Nanako stashed the mushrooms into Rei's left pocket. They couldn't tell her. She was a nice, proper girl. Even participating in the petition drive to abolish the sorority had been out of her comfort zone. What would she think about some mysterious magic fungi? Nanako wasn't sure she wanted to find out.

Tomoko could see how well Nanako and Rei were getting along. She knew full well that Nanako really, really liked Rei. She had told her so multiple times and made it clear when she had told her about meeting Rei at the train station. She was very accepting and didn't mind whether someone liked a boy, girl, or whatever. It was fine with her. This time, it seemed like they had gone further... or *something* had happened to them.

"So, Nanako, how was your date?" she asked innocently. This question surprised her, as she didn't expect it, especially when the woman she loved was right there next to her. She struggled to answer, at least a little, until she felt Rei's hand clasp her own. She now had the strength to answer her friend with all honesty.

"It was *wonderful*," she began. She continued on, singing her date's praises. "The place we went was majestic...we had such a fun time together...oh I wish I could be with Rei-sama *forever*," she said, still gushing. Tomoko was a bit jealous. She didn't have anyone special *like that* in her life. Some qualities of men attracted her, but she also felt something for Prince Kaoru and had a very close friendship with Mariko. She didn't know what that meant. No word like "bisexual" existed at the time. She didn't feel that terms like rezubin applied to her, although [baisekushuaru](#) seemed a little closer. None of those labels really mattered to her, though. She just wanted to live her life on her own terms.

After they had walked together for a while, they walked to a nearby restaurant, a local MOS Burger. It was Japan's answer to McDonalds, you could say, although there were other similar restaurants, then, like Lotteria. Outside were two people they were all familiar with, but would have never expected to be together: Lady Vampanella and Takashi. She stepped closer. He pulled out a lighter from his pocket and lit her cigarette, which she placed between her index and forefinger. With her brown hair fluttering in the breeze and her lips puckered, she blew the smoke toward them, causing Nanako and Tomoko to cough. They *hated* that smell. Takashi at least had the tact to smoke away from them. He could see that neither of them liked it. As Rei prepared to join them, Nanako urged her to not do so.

"Rei-Sama, you shouldn't do that...you should care more about your health...I don't want..." What she was saying was cut off when Rei placed the cigarette box back into her pocket. Turning to the two smokers, she loudly declared, and held up her hands like she was surrendering. She decided to make a big show of it. "My *girlfriend* is right, you know...you *both* should try getting one sometime."

While Takashi dismissed her snide comment easily, Lady Vampanella snarled. How dare Rei say that to her, of all people! She realized that Rei had a point. Sure, she was close to Cattelya, but they'd never actually gone out on dates or anything. You could say Cattelya was [her shinyuu](#). She responded back forcefully, her brown eyes looking fiercely ahead. "Fine, have fun with your [kanojo](#), Rei." After saying that, she then started to walk away. Tomoko didn't know what to say to her. All three of them walked inside the restaurant, while Takashi and the lady stayed outside. They had no reason to go inside a restaurant like that.

Despite the smoking outside, the inside of the restaurant was very nice. There weren't fancy white satin tablecloths or napkins with napkin rings, but it was clean and tidy. It was, you could call it, an upscale fast-food joint.

Tomoko offered to order burgers and fries for them. Nanako and Rei agreed. Tomoko felt she should give them at least a little time to talk to one another. Nanako looked at Rei, who wasn't sure what her sweet ~~Poupee-chan~~ Nanako-chan wanted to ask her. She didn't know Tomoko that well, but she was willing to be with her, for the day, since she knew that she and Nanako had a strong bond.

"So, you've never been to a place like this, Rei-Sama, have you?"

Rei let out a howl of laughter, almost causing the other restaurant patrons to look toward her. Was Nanako really being serious? She wasn't sure.

"You probably think I'm *too proper* or something. Fu... my sister brought me here when we were younger."

Nanako was not sure why Rei didn't say her sister's own name and just called her "my sister." Was there a deeper significance to it? She continued to continue composing the letter, that she would send to Henmi later that week, in her head. Rei knew full well about these letters, but had never objected to her sending them, unlike Fukiko. However, the latter was due to the fact she had a *crush* on Henmi and wanted to be with him. She falsely thought that Nanako was getting in the way of her. She had no idea that both of them were *actually* siblings. Henmi had been born to Nanako's father, when he had been with another woman.

Dear Brother, I never thought that such a majestic person like Rei would ever be in such a plebeian setting like this. Oh the inhumanity of how her sparkle is dulled by the room around her. I wish I could have seen her back then with her sister... I have to put that aside. What matters is that I'm with Rei now. I want to have a fun day with her, even if Tomoko is here too.

As her thoughts on this matter had started to dissipate, Tomoko returned. She carried a tray with her, complete with three burgers and some french fries. She had come here a good deal, after school, with Tomoko, especially since they started going to Seiran. They rarely saw any of their fellow students there.

"Who would have guessed that Lady Vampanella was a smoker?...and hanging out with someone like Takashi? I'm not sure how he puts up with it."

Nanako laughed, in her ever-so-sweet way. It was one of the things that Rei loved about her. She liked every part of her, in one way or another.

"I didn't know either, but...at least Takashi is nice to her...after all, she was high up in the sorority before it was abolished."

They both turned to Rei, who continued to chomp down her burger. She had preferred medium-rare burgers, so she could have the blood from it run down her hands, but with everything that had happened recently, she wasn't sure if she felt the same way anymore. She looked at them, a bit confused, and thinking they wanted to ask her a question.

"*What?* I don't know her first name. Not even my sister knows. She keeps that a secret...I don't know why...she's a mystery wrapped in an enigma."

Not wanting to talk about *that* anymore, Tomoko had the tact to steer the conversation in another direction. She began blabbing about a film she had just seen the day before. She had wanted to go with Nanako, but she didn't know where Nanako was, so she decided to go by herself instead. She went to her favorite niche theater which displayed foreign films.

"So, have any of you watched some good films recently? I just loved Warren Beatty in *The Parallax View*...it really made me think of so many things the government could have hidden."

Rei laughed loudly. Why was she talking about some *American* film? Weren't the Americans killing people in Laos and Cambodia? Why would anyone like them? After all, weren't Japanese films good enough? And who was this Warren Beatty person anyway? She'd never heard of someone with his name. She didn't really keep up with that kind of thing. Not everyone could. And that was okay.

Before she could jump in, Nanako piped up. "Well, I really liked *The Conversation* and the mystery, and intrigue...I had to look around after coming out of the theater because I thought I was being watched!"

The table fell deathly silent. Neither one of them wanted to contemplate that someone was following them or watching their every move. Rei was a bit different. She chuckled and pulled Nanako closer. She then declared, "those are all nice and good, but why don't we see *Young Frankenstein* together? It's from that funny man who directed *Blazing Saddles*...oh I really loved that movie...I'd love to watch it again someday."

They continued chattering about films as they all ate the last of their burgers, having a nice time together. Rei was happy until she started seeing a little grey creature waving at her *again*. She tried to remain calm and rubbed her eyes. Their conversation stopped. Nanako realized something was wrong. "Rei-sama, are you okay?" She shook her head from side to side. She whispered in her lover's ear. "I'm going to go outside for some fresh air."

As Rei went outside, she noticed that Takashi and the lady, Ms. Hoshino, whose first name she didn't know, had left. No one else was around. She leaned against a wall and took a deep breath. What were all these strange grey creatures? And *why* was she seeing them? She hadn't started seeing them before... she *knew* now what it was: they were the aftereffects of the blue angel. She wasn't sure she wanted to give them to anyone else. If they did this to her, what's to say that the effects on other people wouldn't be more severe? It wasn't in her nature to think about these kinds of things. That magic mushroom changed her in some ways.

Just then, Nanako opened the door and saw Rei outside, leaning against the wall. She walked over to her and tried to act encouraging.

"Rei-sama, let's go for a walk in the park," she said with exuberance, while pointing to the nearby park. It wasn't the same one she'd gone on a date with her to, all that time ago. On that day, she even skipped classes *because* she wanted to be with her. That wasn't an issue this time, however, because it was a Sunday.

As they walked together, Rei decided to share what she had been going through. She had to tell someone. "I saw those grey ~~men~~ creatures *again* today...I think it was that...uh...*plant* I took on Friday." She tried to keep it vague enough if someone was listening, but also to clue in Nanako, while obscuring it was *actually* a fungi. However, she didn't get in the next word.

"What plant? What grey creatures? What is going on?" Tomoko asked in what was a completely honest question. Nanako whispered to her that this was not the place to talk about it. Tomoko decided to accept her reasoning. As it so happened, a train station was nearby. They were skilled at using the train to get to school, then transferring to a bus, to get to the academy gates. In what seemed like a blur, they walked off the train station and began walking toward the apartment building within which Rei lived. Lucky for them, Fukiko seemed to not be present. They would rather not run into her.

After getting inside, they took off their shoes. Rei closed the window shades and turned on some lights. She took the mushrooms out of her pocket. They still continued to glow blue. This even surprised Rei a bit. She had expected they would have wilted, by this point. Tomoko was amazed. Is this what Rei had been talking about earlier?

"Some man in a cotton white hat gave them to me a few days ago...and it brought me back from a...uh...*dark place*. I've been having some visions since then...I don't know what to do."

Nanako hugged the woman she loved, holding onto her. Tomoko didn't know what to say. Nanako did. "We'll help you, Rei-sama. Don't worry...we will get through this *together*." Tomoko smiled when she heard that. She wanted to stay with them, but she saw a nearby clock and knew she had to go home. "See you both at school tomorrow!"

The door closed. Her steps down the apartment building's stairs could be heard as they faded away. Rei was about to put the mushrooms back in her pocket when Nanako grabbed one. Rei was horrified. Wanting to feel the same thing as the person she loved, she stuffed one in her mouth and swallowed it. Everything felt different. Her pupils got bigger and her limbs got numb. She started to be isolated from everything around her and felt at ease.

Rei could not believe *her sweet girl* had done that. What was she thinking? She began laughing. "You know, Nanako-chan, this drug *doesn't suit* you."

Nanako, still under the influence of drug, began thrashing and shouted so loud, perhaps the loudest in her life. "It so does suit me! If you can take it, *so can I!*" She then slumped onto the ground and fell into a deep sleep. During that time, she began hearing voices and echoes, and even started to see back to when she had been born. She wasn't sure how this was possible. There was no doubt that this was a moving experience.

Knowing that Nanako's parents might be worried, Rei called Nanako's house on the telephone. She had gotten the number from the parents of Nanako earlier. She told them that Nanako would be staying over that night, and that she was okay. Her parents were relieved. After ending the phone call, Rei, tired from everywhere they went that day, slept in her bed, next to Nanako, and held her tight. No matter what, she wouldn't let her go. She wouldn't let her slip away.

Chapter 4: Waking Up

Chapter Summary

In this final part of this story, Rei awakens and is slightly anxious about what Nanako did the night before (eating a magic mushroom). She makes breakfast for the woman she loves, which causes her to wake up, and lament she doesn't have a camera to capture Rei wearing an apron. After they eat together, Rei and Nanako travel to school for the first time, fulfilling one of Nanako's long-time dreams, and they meet Tomoko on the bus. What awaits them at the academy will be sure to change their lives going forward, as some of them feel like they are ascending to another plane of existence, while Fukiko will be impacted undoubtedly after receiving Rei's special gift...

Both slept soundly through the night. Rei was awakened when sunlight filtered into the room. She remained slightly anxious about what Nanako did the night before. She slipped out of bed without Nanako realizing. Some time later, Nanako arose when she smelled food. She thought it was odd that she didn't see Rei anywhere. Yawning and walking toward the kitchen, she was pleasantly surprised. She saw something she never would have expected, not in a million years: Rei wearing an apron and serving her food.

"Here, *mademoiselle*, is your scrambled eggs." Nanako took her up on her offer. She didn't think she would ever see something like this. If only she had her camera! This moment would surely be imprinted in her memory.

"Rei-sama...you know, that apron, well, it doesn't suit you *at all*!" Rei began laughing. She had expected that Nanako would say something like that. They didn't say much to each other for the rest of the meal, until Rei told Nanako that she had to prepare for school. This made her nervous. She didn't have any of her school books or anything!

Just then, the telephone began to ring. Rei leisurely walked over to it and answered. It was Tomoko. Nanako couldn't hear anything, but she could guess that Tomoko had gone to her house to pick up her bag. She really was such a good friend. Luckily for them, Nanako happened to be wearing her school uniform that day, so that wasn't an issue.

Rei closed the door behind them as they made their way toward the train station. Nanako never would have imagined that she would be able to walk to school with her. She had dreamed of something like this.

Along the way, Rei leaned toward Nanako. "Are you doing okay, Nanako-chan? After eating that mushroom last night I thought..." Nanako was caught off guard, not expecting Rei to express her concern. That never would have happened before.

"That's sweet, but I'm fine...I just wanted to be like you...after all, I tried to smoke to because you looked *so cool* and *so sexy*...you probably remember," she said sheepishly. This led Rei to erupt into a howl of laughter, making Nanako even more embarrassed. *Dear Brother, Rei is being silly this morning. Maybe that mushroom really changed her*, she thought to herself.

Before long, they found themselves on the train they would take, from which you had to transfer to a bus to get to the academy. It was there they saw Tomoko. She happily hugged Nanako and handed her bag to her, while brushing the dust off Nanako's clothes. She had to be presentable to go to a school like this. No speck of dust could be showing. Rei didn't care as much about all of that.

They traveled with Tomoko to the bus, which took them to the school's gates, and made their way off without any issue. It wasn't as crowded as it could have been. What would happen that day would change the lives of Tomoko, and Nanako's friends, in ways they could not comprehend. And it would be all thanks to a glowing blue mushroom.

The day had started normally. The girls gathered in the hallways and were overwhelmed by Rei's beauty. "Saint-Just!" they declared, as she walked forward, willing to show herself off. Nanako didn't even mind that, as she knew a side of Rei that these girls didn't see. As the day went on, Rei made her way to the school's tower. She didn't expect to find Kaoru there. She shone brightly in the light that filtered through the tower's windows.

"Kaoru...why are you here?," Rei asked, wondering what had caused her to skip class. She did sometimes, but other times attended class like everyone else.

"What's been going on between you and Misonoo-chan?...you seem close...closer than before," Kaoru said matter-of-factly.

Rei laughed, almost in a childish way, and shook her head. Kaoru could tell she was different now. *Something* had changed.

"I'm going out with her...and *she* has saved me." She continued, "everything has been hollow for so long. I want to live, not feel like a ghost and not feel cold...Nanako is helping me overcome that and that *magical fungi*...too"

Kaoru was happy that Nanako had someone for her. However, the talk of a magical plant worried her. After all, she had heard so many stories of what these drugs did. She had read the papers. What she said next was something Rei did not expect her friend would ever say to her.

"I'd like to try that 'magical fungi' too?...it might help me...with all these pains." Kaoru had good reason for asking this. Her health was deteriorating. She had received the news, from her doctor, about how long she would have left, thanks to her breast cancer. She once had a double mastectomy, hoping to stop the cancer's growth. The operation had done nothing to stop the disease.

This was something Rei hadn't expected. She did not want anyone else to experience what she did. Already Nanako had taken one and she didn't want Kaoru to do the same.

"I...don't think that's a good idea, Kaoru...when I took one it really messed with my mind...I started seeing things, like these little grey..."

What she was saying was quickly interrupted when Kaoru boldly reached inside of Rei's pocket. Even holding Kaoru's arm was no use. As a member of the school's basketball team, she was agile. She could move quickly when she wanted to, although her physical health could prevent this, sometimes. Rei could do the same, even though she didn't exert herself in as much physical activity as Kaoru.

She placed the mushroom into her mouth. She quickly chewed the fungi, turning into tiny pieces, making it easier to swallow, allowing it to go down her throat with ease. If Nanako had been there, she would have been horrified. Rei was different. She knew that Kaoru had been through a lot, so she gave her a pass, this time. Kaoru could feel something changing within her body. She became hyperaware of each part of her spine, how tight her shoulders were, and everything around her. She was truly out of her depth and out of her head. She tried to focus, but struggled to do so. The world didn't feel like it was spinning, but all her senses were enhanced. She felt she could hear everything. And the pain in her chest had disappeared!

The effects of the blue angel still weren't fully known. There was no doubt it affected people differently. Even so, every single person saw little grey creatures. Kaoru saw them too. They began dancing around, making themselves known to her. In some ways they were a hallucination, but in another, they were real. At that very moment, Mariko walked into the room, her beautiful black hair shimmering in the dappled sunlight. She looked at Kaoru with concern.

"Prince Kaoru, are you there? What's wrong?" Kaoru only looked at her happily, touching her hair, not huffing or getting annoyed. Mariko would have backed away, but she was glad that Kaoru was paying attention to her more closely rather than just seeing her as a groupie, as she often seemed to do. Suddenly, Kaoru fell to the floor, with her pupils enlarged, and began laughing. Somehow getting up again, she playfully grabbed Mariko's shoulder, wrapping her arm around her, and picked her up in a princess carry, much to her surprise, causing her to be embarrassed, beyond belief. Mariko hadn't expected this, *not at all!*

"Oh, Mariko-sama, you'll *love* this, it will send you on a magical journey!" Before she knew it, Kaoru had stuffed a mushroom into her mouth and was massaging her throat, encouraging her to swallow it. She started to feel things like she'd never felt before. She started twitching, trembling, and her limbs got numb. She fell to the ground, just as Kaoru did, while both continued holding one another. She was at ease as she heard voices of the past. She was happy. All the pain she was experiencing seemed to fade away. She no longer felt fragile or weak. She soon found herself in some other dimension. Rei was there too since some of the mushroom that Kaoru had given to Mariko had pulled her in.

They soon could see the plane of existence, of this dimension, which they floated above, falling into nothing. These strange grey beings watched them. In the process, Rei could see a table where her sister was sitting, drinking her tea, twirling her hair nervously. She used her finger to send her sister a message, saying "Let me live my own life." She felt that from the deepest parts of her heart.

In real life, Fukiko saw this play out and looked around, wondering what was happening. It couldn't be Rei, *right*? She was so thoroughly confused that she paced around the room, staring at the message intently. She didn't know what was going on. She didn't dare get any of her servants, not wanting them to think she was out of her mind.

Rei couldn't send her any more messages, however, because the dimension had crumbled away. They came back to reality. They were lying on the floor of one of the rooms in the academy tower. At that very moment, Nanako came in and saw them all there. *Dear Brother, I think my friends have totally lost it. They are on the floor of a dirty tower and look like they are totally out of it. But they seem so happy...so I guess that's fine...*

"Oh Nanako, my sweet girl...you should have seen it. I feel I could do anything now...I could..." As she said this, she collapsed into Nanako's arms. They stayed there for a bit. Mariko enjoyed her bliss with Kaoru, her fingernails, painted the nicest color of ruby red, shining in the light, as she clasped Kaoru's arm.

A few days later, Fukiko heard the doorbell ring. A man with a specially wrapped box was there. "Miss, if you could sign for this package." She pulled out her ballpoint pen which she had bought in a local store. It would be years before the first gel pen would be released by a company in Osaka, or when rollerball pens would be popular. In her elegant cursive, she signed the note. The man bowed and departed.

Coming back to the study, she opened the box, especially after seeing it was from her sister Rei. Inside was one item, wrapped nicely in a cloth napkin. It was a glowing blue mushroom. This was what she had seen earlier, the same thing Nanako had taken away from *her*. It came with a note: "Dearest sister, please take this. It changed my life. I *hope* it will change yours. Please eat it. You will go somewhere you never imagined. Love, Rei."

Fukiko found this message most peculiar. As she looked around to make sure no one was watching, she walked over to the study's nearby door and closed it. No one could disturb her. She went back and forth about whether she should take it, remembering how it affected her sister. She decided to eat it. The possible side effects did not matter to her. She wanted to consume this mushroom. She wanted to go to another dimension. Perhaps it would change her life.

What happened next would change her in more ways than one. The saga of the mushroom in this world, and its impact on her, her sister, Nanako, Mariko, and Kaoru, had just begun...

End Notes

For this fic, I relied on pages 122 and 124 of Hiroshi Suwaki's "Solvent Abuse Trends in Japan" within ["Epidemiology of Inhalant Abuse: An International Perspective,"](#) published in 1995; article in VICE (by Bobbie van der List and Max Daly) entitled ["How Stigma Created Japan's Hidden Drug Problem"](#) and published in May 2020, which says at one point "Japan's postwar meth epidemic, and two subsequent waves of meth addiction linked to economic downturns in the 1970s and 1990s, led to tough sentences for first-time meth offenders and the creation of specialized drug enforcement officers...The use of drugs as an individual moral failing was extended to cannabis in the 1970s as the Japanese authorities clamped down on 'corrupting' counter culture messages coming from the West." I also used a webpage entitled ["History of Drug Misuse in Japan"](#), which says "After World War II, Japan experienced a period of economic growth and modernization, which led to an increase in the use of drugs, particularly stimulants like amphetamines, which were widely used by factory workers and students. These drugs were also used to help people cope with the stress of Japan's rapid economic growth. In the 1950s and 1960s, Japan's government implemented strict drug laws, such as the Narcotics Control Law of 1951, and launched a campaign against drug use, which led to a decrease in the use of drugs." The abstract of ["The Pharmaceutical Industry in Japan: A History of Its Development"](#) was also helpful for this fic. When writing this fic, I had the idea that Marshall would bring back to life those who died in key points in various anime and animated series, but I'm not sure which series to do next, to be honest. But, this fic idea came up first. I wrote this fic in various stages, across a month.

I added various fics to the inspirations, which I used to add more information about Rei, Nanako, and others, as people have written very good fics for this fandom. I won't lie, this was a difficult fic. I found one fic which called her "Poupée-chan" but that didn't sound right, so I changed it to "Nanako-chan." Also for the effects of mushrooms, I used information on pages 5, 10-11, 20, 25-26, 56, 59, 61, 68-69, and 153-156 of Richard Evans Schultes's "Hallucinogenic Plants" (A Golden Guide) noting psychological, physical, and physiological effects of hallucinogenic plants. It is listed in the inspirations and has wonderful illustrations by Elmer W. Smith. I have a PDF copy as well, but a copy online that all can access is good, since the Internet Archive was down when I tried to find the PDF version of the book. On some level, maybe "Undone" is sort of an influence? I'm not 100% sure of that though.

The last two episodes of Common Side Effects, especially noting the side effects of the mushrooms, are incorporated into this fic. With this fic, I am assuming that Rei fell off the train platform on a Friday (and somehow survived), hung around with Nanako on a Saturday. Also, Tomoko could, honestly, be bi or lesbian. You could get either reading from the series. The scene in the fast-food restaurant is somewhat inspired by a scene in Bloom Into You (I just rewatched the series). I went through films which aired in 1974 through a bunch of lists. And the ones I list here I've all watched. Writing this fic was a real challenge and I tried my best to make these characters in canon-compliant, and not OOC, but I may have overdone it a bit. Then again, some of this is a drug trip, basically so there's that.

Works inspired by this one

[Maomao, mystery, and the intriguing Blue Angel mushroom](#) by [lefemmerouge](#)

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